

F.Y.I...

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Standish Maximum program provides teddy bears for children

Staff at Standish Maximum Correctional Facility provided the local Sheriff's Department with 40 teddy bears made at the prison.

The bears are constructed by prisoners. The voluntary program is under the supervision of Merricarol Mahoney and uses scrap material from the department's Michigan State Industries Program.



From left: Sheriff Deputy John Tyler, Sheriff Deputy Ron Stodolak, SMF Deputy Warden Tom Winn, Santa Steve Kramer, Hearings Investigator Merricarol Mahoney, Arenac Co. Sheriff Ron Bouldin and Arenac Co. Jail Administrator Mike Badour are on hand to assist with the bears.

The bears will be placed in Sheriff's patrol cars and in the event of an accident or other traumatic incident involving children the deputies help to console the children with a toy.

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TROUBLE PRINTING F.Y.I.?

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CORRECTIONS STAFF SHOW HOLIDAY SPIRIT BY GIVING



Muskegon Correctional Facility employees adopted two local families for Christmas. A total of 317 gifts were collected and delivered. to Every Women's Place for the families. From left: Delores Crosby, Administrative Assist.; Ron Ballard, Electrician; Marilyn Tucker, Warden's Secretary; RUM Phylis Brown and RUO Donna Fritz.

The Michigan Department of Corrections staff always manage to find unique ways to give back to their communities. This holiday season Toys for Tots and Shop with a Cop programs were clear winners. In addition many other community service programs received toys, food and financial assistance as department staff shared their resources, time and talents with many deserving folks.

The employees of the Adrian correctional facilities raised \$1,860 for local families during the holiday season. One officer contributed \$50 in gift cards, Wal-Mart provided another \$100 gift card, and the facility's employee club contributed \$50. The remaining \$1,660 came from individuals. Due to this generosity staff were able to assist six families.



From left: Florence Crane Correctional Facility staff ARUS Amy Lawrence, ADW Linda Beckwith and ARUS Kirstin Scheidler



ATF employees from left: Storekeeper Billy Elizardo, Quartermaster Phil Monahan, ADW Secretary Cindy Gutierrez, School Secretary Elizabeth Luttrell-Marr, RUM Roxanne Metzmaker and ARUS Joyce Mitchell

The fifth annual Toys for Tots luncheon was held December 13 at Parr Highway Correctional Facility (ATF). Employees were treated to a taco dinner with all menu items donated by local restaurants and ATF employees. Staff made toy or cash donations to the Toys for Tots drive. Fund raisers and donations raised \$450 which was donated in memory of Alyssa Elizardo, daughter of Storekeeper Billy Elizardo. The Elizardos lost Alyssa to a tragic auto accident eight years ago. Along with cash donations, there were many gifts donated and the ATF Employee Club also made a generous cash donation.

The Coldwater Complex staff's Needy Family Project assisted eight families from the Department of Human Services (Branch County Foster Care) and fourteen families from the Community Resource Center (Branch Intermediate School District). A total of 73 children and their families received gifts and, in some cases, meals. Prisoners at Lakeland Correctional Facility also contributed hand made scarves and mittens. Members of the Quincy High School boy's basketball team assisted with packing and delivery of the gifts.

HANDLON STAFF DONATE TOYS

Staff at the Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility donated gifts to Toys for Tots this year.

The drive was coordinated by C/O Ron Trachet and Administrative Assistant Candie Chase. A donation from the Bluewater Employee Club assisted C/O Jacque Seidelman with the purchase of gifts. Sgt.

John Thomas, Jr. and 1st Sgt. Mark Pyland with C Company 1/24 from the Lansing Marine Corp Reserve Unit picked up the donations.

The Toys for Tots program distributes toys to deserving children who might not otherwise receive a toy at holiday time.



C/O Ron Trachet, AA Candie Chase, and Sgt. John Thomas, Jr.

EGELER STAFF ADOPT FAMILIES

This Christmas the Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center (RGC) staff adopted Michelle Rainboldt, her young teenage daughter, Rachel, and their caregivers.

Michelle Rainbolt is a RGC corrections officer who suffered a brain aneurysm in 2004. She developed a staph infection following surgery, which in turn, caused brain damage similar to that of a stroke victim. She is unable to return to work at RGC and has many needs.



RUO Stace Graham, Michelle Rainbolt and RUO Paul Hackenburg.

The Rainboldts moved in with their good friends, Aaron and Nilda Smith, who are providing supervision and care. Neither family is rich financially but they represent a true example of friendship and hope.

The Christmas gifts were delivered to Michelle, her daughter and their caregivers on December 22 by RUO's Stace Graham and Paul Hackenburg. Even though Michelle cannot express herself verbally, she was excited and very happy to see her visitors. Staff at RGC were able to make the families' Christmas very special.

MUSKEGON AREA STAFF DONATE TO TOYS FOR TOTS



Muskegon Parole and Area Office staff.

Muskegon Parole and Area Office joined forces with Muskegon K-PEP to donate toys for the Toys for Tots campaign.

From left: Steve Farrell, Don Cole, Debbie Visger, Mary Luna, John Arnoldi, Deb Larson, Kathy Danhof, John Shyne (K-PEP), Chris Wilbur, Jeff Lucht (K-PEP) and Jodi Langlois.

In addition, the Muskegon Correctional Facility continued its sixteen year tradition by again donating toys to Marine Corps Toys for Tots program this year.

STANDISH MAXIMUM AND CAMP LEHMAN SHOP WITH A COP



Standish Maximum Correctional Facility and Camp Lehman's fifth annual Shop with a Cop program assisted some deserving children from Arenac County.

Each child was given \$100 and shopped with one officer from a team of 20 Corrections Officers, 10 County Sheriff deputies, two State Police Officers, one DNR officer and one local Tribal Police Officer.

The program was funded by the SMF Employees Club which raised \$3,000 for the event throughout the year.

The event included Santa, a mitten tree, and 15 non-custody staff who assisted with gift wrapping. The children were instructed to buy items for themselves but they insisted on purchasing gifts for their parents, brothers and sisters, the officer shopping with them and their pets.

MORE SHOP WITH A COP



C/O Pablo Olvera headed the Saginaw Correctional Facility's Shop with a Cop event this year and the facility's employee club adopted six families from the local United Way Wish Book.

C/O Jan Enos and Lori Galbraith donated a huge chunk of their time and energy shopping and collecting items for the families.

Delivering gifts are C/O Jan Enos, C/O Reginald Burns and Lori Galbraith, Business Office.

ALGER MAX AND CAMP CUSINO STAFF DONATE TOYS

Alger Maximum Correctional Facility (LMF) and Camp Cusino (CCU) staff provided 120 gifts to local children selected by the Alger County Department of Human Services. When the facility received a phone call from the Department of Human Services that there was a crisis in Alger County and there was still an additional 50 to 100 gift tags left to be filled, LMF/CCU employees stepped up once again and took the additional tags so that no child would go without.

As one facility employee was putting together the gifts for the children, her own son asked if one of the presents his parents had purchased for him for Christmas could be given to one of the children from the Human Services list.

In addition to the gifts, staff donated canned goods and money to the same organization. Approximately \$1,000 was raised through donations, fund raisers and a one-day employee casual-dress day.



From left: John Adams, John Sherman-Jones (Dept. of Human Services), Barb Beacham, Karen Dickson, Anita Nelson, Connie Dust, Keena Wiethoff, Lisa LaCombe, Sheila Murphy and Debra Olger. Kneeling is Lori Cabanaw.

OJIBWAY SHOP WITH A COP IN THIRD YEAR

Ten staff members from the Ojibway Correctional Facility (OCF) participated in the third annual Shop with a Cop program sponsored by a local radio station in Ironwood, Michigan.

The OCF Employee Club donated \$500 to assist deserving children in purchasing Christmas gifts for their families.

Officers from the local law enforcement agencies accompanied the children on the shopping experience hoping to

alleviate any fears or anger the children may have toward police officers.

Approximately 40 children received \$75 each to spend on their families. RUO Paul Osterman took the good cause one step further and collected additional donations from staff at OCF. With this money, 40 new winter jackets were purchased for all the children and they received them while wrapping their newly purchased items.

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2006 LETR RUNNERS CAN SIGN UP NOW

Law enforcement agencies across Michigan raised more than \$330,000 for Special Olympics this past year. It is the commitment of these men and women that make it possible for thousands of athletes in Michigan to participate in Special Olympic competitions.

The Michigan Department of Corrections has had a very positive and ongoing relationship with the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, providing a run team that participates in special fund raising and other activities. In 2005, the MDOC team was a core member in the 18 member Law Enforcement Team that relayed 750 miles across the state during Torch Run Week. The goal of the Relay Team and the MDOC Run Team is to raise awareness of the Torch Run and Special Olympics, and to raise funds for Special Olympics Michigan.

The department is now seeking volunteers for the 2006 MDOC Run Team which will be made up of staff from all areas of the department. Two members of previous MDOC Run Teams will serve as leaders of the team and, along with new members, will participate in this seven-day event. The event will require a seven-day commitment and support of the runners' administrators. Those persons chosen to participate will be permitted administrative leave for their regular work hours (up to 40 hours) while they participate in Law Enforcement Torch Run events.

Any department employee interested in participating as a member of the MDOC Run Team is encouraged to express their interest in writing, through the appropriate chain of command, to Norma Killough, Administrative Assistant, CFA. Letters of interest should be submitted immediately.

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KINROSS BUILDING TRADES INSTRUCTOR ANDY THOMPSON HONORED FOR VOLUNTEERING

Andy Thompson, Kinross Correctional Facility (KCF) building trades instructor, was honored at a recent education staff luncheon by Kristina Beamish, Director of the United Way Volunteer Center of Chippewa County. Thompson received the United Way November 2005 Volunteer of the Month award.

He has been actively involved in Habitat for Humanity for the past six years. Under his supervision, his KCF students build walls for the Prison Build program and work on projects which benefit the surrounding communities. Additionally, Thompson is a member of the Volunteer Fire Department, the Chippewa County Fair Board, and works as a volunteer for the Parks and Recreation Board.

“Volunteering is a part of Andy Thompson’s makeup,” said Kit Spring, HTF/KCF School Principal who nominated Thompson for the award. “In his work with young people he encourages good manners and sportsmanship.”

Thompson also becomes eligible for the Volunteer of the Year award.

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From left: Kristina Beamish, Director of the United Way Volunteer Center of Chippewa County; Andy Thompson, KCF Building Trades Instructor and Kit Spring, KCF/HTF Principal.

KENT COUNTY PROBATION DONATES TO JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER



The Kent County Probation Office celebrated the holidays at a luncheon on December 19. As part of the festivities, staff assembled a variety of clothing, games and personal hygiene items for distribution to the adolescents at Kent County Juvenile Detention Center.

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PAROLE AGENT ANITRA HARRIS RETURNS FROM IRAQ



Anitra Harris

Region I, Field Operations Administration Parole Agent Anitra Harris, assigned to the PDD Parole Office at Lawton Place in Detroit, has been in the U. S. Army Reserve for over 23 years. On August 6, 2004, Agent Harris left home to participate in Operation Iraqi Freedom as part of the 317th Quarter Master Battalion. After receiving training at Ft. Riley, Kansas, PO Harris flew to Kuwait on October 17, 2004. Her mission was to set up the Headquarters (Command Cell) of the largest desert camp in Kuwait, Camp Buehring. Camp Buehring is located in Northern Kuwait, less than 20 miles from the Iraq border.

Agent Harris' assignment was to run the camp like city hall runs a city. Her responsibility was to coordinate and supply all the needs of all of the soldiers, airmen, sailors, marines and civilians who either lived, worked, visited or passed through the camp.

Agent Harris had as many as 13 soldiers under her immediate supervision. She went to Kuwait as Sergeant First Class (SFC/E-7). While there, she was promoted to Master Sergeant (MSG/E-8) and for over two weeks, was appointed as the acting Command Sergeant Major (CSM) of the camp.

The temperature in Kuwait ranged from the low 60 F, which the soldiers considered freezing, to 132 F. The average temperature was between 100 and 120 F. Of the 355 days Agent Harris was in Kuwait, it rained only four times. However, 30 minutes of steady rain was enough to cause the camp many problems with flooding.

While in Kuwait, Agent Harris received extensive support from her co-workers at the Lawton Place office. They sent e-mails, phone cards and a Christmas basket.

"The best gift I received from my co-workers was a DVD that contained the video recording of the 2004 office Christmas party and personal messages from many friends," said Agent Harris. "I laughed and cried at the same time."

Upon her return to work on November 9, 2005, Agent Harris presented the office with an American flag, which had flown over Camp Buehring on July 4, 2004, along with a certificate signed by the 317th Commander and Command Sergeant Major, thanking the office for all the support shown to our soldiers.

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OAKS CORRECTIONAL TEAMS UP WITH SALVATION ARMY

Staff from Oaks Correctional Facility assisted the Salvation Army in raising money for the community by serving as volunteer bell ringers.

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At left is Rick Sharp, Administrative Assistant accepting a donation from a shopper at Oleson's Market in Manistee.